



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

DK

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,047	08/17/2001	Shin Asari	4351	4504
7590	02/24/2004		EXAMINER	
Floyd B. Carothers CAROTHERS AND CAROTHERS Suite 500 445 Fort Pitt Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15219			CROWELL, ANNA M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1763	
DATE MAILED: 02/24/2004				

Please, find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/932,047	ASARI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michelle Crowell	1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 9-12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 8, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin et al. (WO 99/20812).

Referring to Figures 1 and 3, pages 9, lines 3-23, and page 14, line 21-page 17, line 17, Yin et al. discloses a plasma processing apparatus which includes a processing chamber 30 in which a substrate 25 is arranged (pg. 9, lines 3-11, pg 32, lines 1-9), a processing gas introducing pipe 85 connected to a supply source of a processing gas 70 (pg. 10, lines 11-16), plural cleaning-gas introducing pipes 235a,b,c communicating with the processing chamber without passing through a shower plate (pg. 17, lines 1-17), a radicals producing source 40 connected to the cleaning-gas introducing pipes (pg. 14, lines 21-30).

Yin et al. fails to specifically teach plural radicals producing sources respectively connected to the cleaning-gas introducing pipes; however, it is an obvious engineering design modification that would improve process control. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the apparatus of Yin et al. with plural radicals producing sources respectively connected to the cleaning-gas introducing pipes in order to improve process control. Additionally, although the reference did not explicitly disclose a plurality of radicals producing sources, the mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance (In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960)).

Additionally, it is well settled that the intended uses of (film-forming chamber) and the particular process gases (i.e. film forming or cleaning) used in an apparatus have no significance in determining the patentability of the apparatus claims. "Expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim." Ex parte Thibault, 164 USPQ 666, 667 (Bd. App. 1969).

With respect to claims 10 and 12, Yin et al. discloses a plasma processing apparatus wherein the cleaning-gas introducing pipes 235a,b,c are connected to opposite walls of the

processing chamber 30, and the cleaning-gas introducing pipes 235a,b,c are respectively connected to the opposite walls are offset from the centers of the opposite walls in opposite directions without facing to each other (see Fig. 3 and pg. 17, lines 1-17).

With respect to claim 11, Yin et al. discloses a plasma processing apparatus which further includes, a shower plate having numerous holes and interposed between a second end of the processing gas introducing pipe and the processing chamber 30 (pg. 10, lines 11-16), and a process-gas exciting means 110 for exciting a process gas introduced through said numerous holes of said shower plate into said film-forming chamber (pg. 10, lines 26-28).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Crowell whose telephone number is (571) 272-1432. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 - 4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on (571) 272-1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/932,047
Art Unit: 1763

Page 5

AMC (P)


MILS
C. T. LEONARD
TEN 1980